

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
November 21, 1997

Attention Movie Buffs!!

Discounted movie tickets available:

You now have the opportunity to order discounted movie tickets which save up to 33% off regular box office prices. Tickets are ordered by mail and there is no maximum limit (minimum is six tickets), so you can always have a supply on hand. The variety of participating theaters includes: Loews/Sony Theaters, General Cinema and Cineplex Odeon. Some restrictions apply to first-run engagements. Please stop by Human Resources for more details or to pick up an order form.

NEW 1998 MAXIMUM FOR TAX-SHELTERED ANNUITIES

The IRS has increased the maximum you can save in your tax-sheltered annuity (TSA) for 1998 to \$10,000 or 20% of your pay, whichever is less. In prior years, the limit was the lesser of \$9,500 or 20% of pay. TSA's are tax-deferred, retirement savings accounts. The money and interest is only taxed when you receive it, usually when you retire. The contribution comes right out of your paycheck on a pre-tax basis and you can design your own investment portfolio with one of our TSA carriers. Please call **Carole Kasarda** (x529) in Human Resources for further information or for a sample paycheck calculation that shows your tax savings.

An Invitation

Environmental and Conservation Programs cordially invites you to a reception for the participants of the Conservation Training Consortium. Our guests of honor will include: **Christine Dranzoa**, Uganda; **Mysore Madhusudan**, India; **Alvin Mugasha**, Tanzania; **Zolalaina Randriarimalala**, Madagascar; **Mohammad Zashim Uddin**, Bangladesh; and **Lic Vuthy**, Cambodia. You will have an opportunity to talk with the CTC participants, hear about their latest conservation achievements, and interact with colleagues from other Consortium institutions. Please join us on Friday, December 5, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Rice Wildlife Research Station. Light refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. to **Laura M. Dini** (x426). Hope to see you there!

1998 MUSEUM CALENDARS \$1 NOW!

The Publications Department is taking orders for the 1998 Field Museum Calendars, which are available for \$1. Call **Robert Vosper** (x465) or drop by the Publications Department (ground floor next to the President's Office). Departments should place orders by November 28. Orders from individuals will be accepted starting December 1. There is a limited supply, so don't procrastinate.

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Field Museum staff and volunteers interact with the public on all levels, and friendships across many boundaries are established, leading to a deepened personal interest in both the Museum and our staff, as demonstrated by the following letters.

Received by **Steve McCarroll** (Geology):

This is belated note to say thank you for taking the time to identify the fossils in the photos I sent you early this summer.

Even though they are obviously common specimens, we have really enjoyed hunting for and locating more of them. This leads me to say how pleased I was to hear the Field Museum snagged the T-Rex fossil. I can only imagine what your feelings must be to have this extraordinary opportunity to study this wonderful acquisition. It has to be the dream of a lifetime come true for you, and I'm glad it happened to a young man who could take the time to affix post-it notes and identify my common fossils. It meant a lot to me, and I'll be looking forward to viewing the Tyrannosaurus when the exhibit opens in a few years...

Received by **Wayne Gerdes** (Visitor Services):

Letter One: This summer my son and I spent a beautiful week in Chicago... we also visited the Field Museum and this is where we met you. You told us about your German roots in East Frisia (Ostfriesland)... I had a look in my German Telekom CD Rom and found some information for you. In Germany there are 4823 Gerdes families ...

Letter two (from the same person): ... there were dozens of Germans at your information desk at The Field Museum ... did anybody else send you useful information yet? ... Lately the Field Museum was in our video-text on TV because the Museum had paid an immense sum of money for a dinosaur skull of a T-Rex. Is it in the Museum already?

Received by **John McCarter** from Trustee **Leo Mullin**, now CEO at Delta, who found the following article in an American Airlines magazine (!):

With its shrunken human heads and massive stuffed elephants, Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History boasts an astonishing array of preserved specimens. But one of Field's most unusual mainstays is quite alive. For fifteen years, artist Peggy Nacnamara has surprised visitors by setting up her easel and painting the Museum's displays.

"Once a day," she says, laughing, "someone says, 'You're the best exhibit in the place.'"

... She sometimes wonders why no one has forced her to leave and get a conventional job. "When I come in in the morning," she says, "I think, I got away with it another day."

MERIDIAN VOICE MAIL QUICK REFERENCE CARD

LOG ON --

1. Call meridian mail... 555
2. Dial your mail box number #
3. Dial your password #

To Listen to Messages:

Dial 2 to play message
Dial 2 to play message again
Dial 76 to delete
Dial 6 to go to next message
Dial 9 to respond to sender...
Dial 83 to disconnect

To Record a Message

Dial 75 to Record
Dial mailbox no's to receive
message
Dial # between each entry
Dial ## at the end of list
Dial 5 to begin recording
Dial # end of message
Dial 2 to listen to your message
Dial 5 to add to your message
Dial # at end of message
Dial 79 to send message
Dial 83 to disconnect

To Change Your Password

Dial 84
Enter your new password #
Renter your new password#
Enter your old password #
(Your password is now changed.)
Dial 83 to disconnect

Other Keypad Commands:

86 go to (Any number msg)#

1 Skip back 5 seconds
3 Skip forward 5 seconds
4 Go to previous message
6 Go to next message
* Help
Stop, end of message, enter

To record a Personal Greeting

Dial 82 to record your greeting
Dial 1 for external greeting
Dial 2 internal greeting
Dial 5 to begin recording
Dial # to end greeting
Dial 2 to listen to your greeting
To exit greeting mode press 4 to
return to commands
Dial 83 to disconnect

CAN'T LEAVE MESSAGES?



WHEN FULL, the phone system does crash, as it did last week.

NEW? Attached is a guide to using the telephone voice mail system. Old staff have these, but if you are new, you may not be aware of all the features of the Museum's phone system, including its vulnerabilities.

SOLUTION? Delete your messages after listening. Don't use the voice mail system as a "to do" list.

GOING AWAY? Give your password to your supervisor or a co-worker so messages can be deleted on a daily basis.

QUESTIONS? Please call **Meseret Gelaw** (x216).

IMPORTANT PAYROLL INFORMATION

With the Holidays approaching soon, we want to remind you of time sheets deadlines and "early check request" procedures.

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, we are requesting time sheets for the period ending November 28, 1997 to be in the Payroll/HR Office no later than **noon on Wednesday, November 26, 1997**.

"Vacation early check requests" must be to the Payroll/HR Office **ten working days** before the day you wish to receive your check. The check will be available by 1:00 p.m. on the last day you work.

Reminder -- we are nearing the end of the year and ask that you verify that the following information is correct on your paycheck:

Your name
Address
Social Security Number

Keep in mind that this information is **important** in the efficient processing of your W-2 forms.

Questions? Call **Maria Burns** (x289) or **Doris Yelvington** (x220).

1997

December

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Chicago Hang Gliding Org-LHI 7:00-10:00pm ILL Mycological Society-LHII 7:30-10:00pm	2 SGunderson-Rice 3:00pm-5:00pm 450	3 Candresen; Women's Bd Tea SFH	4	5 6:30pm-11:00pm Price Waterhouse; SFH/balcony 1400 ECP - Rice 5:30pm-7:30pm 50	6 6:30pm-10:30pm PlatinumTech SFH/balcony 1200
7 SF-Bear's Game (12:00 noon)	8 SWebb-JST 5:30pm-10:00pm 100 Primitive Art Soc-LHI 7:30-10:00pm Nature Camera Club LHII 7:30-10:39pm	9	10 SGunderson: SFH/ JST 5:30pm - 8:30pm	11 Bank of Montreal SFH 6:00pm-12:00am	12 Univ. of Chicago- SFH/balcony 6:30pm-11:30pm 300	13 6:00pm-12:00am Illinois Masonic; Whole Museum 500
14	15	16 SVandenbosch - SFH/Founders Rm 6:00pm-8:00pm 100	17 Human Resources Christmas Party - SFH 5:00pm - 10:00pm	18 Downtown Thursday Night	19 Overnight	20 Dean Witter; SFH/balcony 6:30pm-10:00pm; 150
21	22 Chicago Mt. Club- LHI 7:00-10:00pm	23	24 Hanukah	25 Christmas	26 <u>Holiday Events</u>	27 Archaeological Inst; SFH 7:00pm-9:00pm; 700 <u>Holiday Events</u>
28 <u>Holiday Events</u>	29 <u>Holiday Events</u>	30 <u>Holiday Events</u> <u>Chicago Herp. Society</u> <u>LHII 7:30-10:00pm</u>	31 Bacchus New Year's Eve; SFH /Rice 9:30pm-3:30am; 2000 <u>Holiday Events</u>			

11/19/97

"BOOK-ABLE" SPACES IN FIELD MUSEUM
1/6/95

SPACE	LOC	MAX	USE	SCHEDULE BY	CONTACT	EXT.
Classroom 1	GF	50	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Classroom 2	GF	40	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Classroom 3	GF	30	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Conf. Room 1	GF	20	I	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Dining Room A	GF	16	I	Instit. Adv.	Adam Shapiro	617 Restricted use
Dining Room B	GF	4	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Dining Room C	GF	6	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Dining Room C/D	GF	20	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Dining Room D	GF	12	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Dining Room E	GF	75	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
D&P Conf. Room	4th	10	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329
Educ. Conf. Room	GF	14	I S	Education	Clara Aytch-Baker	247
Developers Conf. Rm.	4th	8	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329
Founder's Room	1st	100	I S	Tours	Dorothy Roder	862 Restricted use
Montgomery Ward H.	GF	150	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Lecture Hall II	GF	75	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Picnic East (Sch)	GF	320	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Picnic West (Pub)	GF	125	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Rice Center	1st		P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Simpson Theatre	GF	1000	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
Zoology Clrm.	3rd	50	I	Zoology	Norann Miller	255
Webber Resource	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Maori Meeting House	2nd	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Pawnee Earth Lodge	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Place for Wonder	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353
Stanley Field Hall	1st	35	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864
EXHIBIT HALL: Permanent Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218
EXHIBIT HALLS: Special Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218

Exhibits Dept.
consulted prior
to confirmation

I = Internal (meetings, etc.)

P = Public (Programs, Classes, etc.)

S = Special Events

SUE UNCRATED

A special exhibit, **Sue Uncrated**, opened to the public Tuesday, November 18. It will run through January 11, 1998. It is the public's first opportunity to view several bones from "Sue," the most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton ever found.

Sue Uncrated gives Museum visitors an excellent overview of the process of extracting and encasing fossils for storage, shipment and eventual conservation. The exhibit displays several of Sue's bones in various stages of preparation. A vertebrae, partial jaw bone, shoulder blade and ankle bone are displayed encased in their plaster field jackets in open wooden crates under a panoramic photo mural of the excavation site in South Dakota's Black Hills where they were found in 1990.

The skeleton's massive skull is also displayed in protective plaster beneath a photo showing it completely revealed. Casts of the skulls of four other meat-eating dinosaurs are displayed alongside "Sue's" skull to illustrate her enormous size and to explore the anatomy of meat-eaters. A fibula and tibia (leg bones) from "Sue" are shown partially exposed, with a portion of the plaster jacket removed. The fibula shows a mass of new bone growth -- proof that the bone was broken and healed during "Sue's" lifetime. Field Museum scientists will study this and many other bones from the fossil which show injuries and bite marks, including the ribs, tail bones and skull, to learn more about the dinosaur's social and competitive interactions.

A forearm and claw from the skeleton are displayed completely revealed and prepared, along with a serrated tooth measuring about twelve inches in length. The forearm is especially significant because "Sue" is only the second *T. Rex* fossil ever found with its relatively tiny arms preserved.

Sue Uncrated also features descriptive text and a video interview of staff members from the Museum's Geology Department discussing the importance of *T. rex* in general, and "Sue" in particular.

In the fossil prep lab adjacent to the exhibit, fossil preparators will work on some of "Sue's" bones. This fossil prep work will continue throughout the run of **Sue Uncrated** and extend up until the time all 300 bones are prepared and the virtually complete skeleton is mounted for display in the year 2000.

As a special promotion for **Sue Uncrated**, anyone whose name is Sue and has identification to prove it will be admitted free of charge to the Museum during the first week of the exhibit, November 18 - 24.

(The above was excerpted from Field Museum Public Relations Department press release.)

Congratulations to all who participated in putting this special exhibit together so quickly!

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, November 18, 1997 was delivered by **Jeffrey Walker**, National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Biosciences Related to the Environment, Department of Zoology, Field Museum. Jeff discussed numeric methods for analyzing data that describe the locomotion of an organism, such as flight or swimming. Numerous algorithms have been used to reduce biological noise and/or errors that may be introduced in the process of gathering and analyzing these data. Jeff used simulation studies of the rapid acceleration predator avoidance/prey capture movement of trout and pike to compare the robustness of ten of these algorithms to recover known data. He found moving regression algorithms gave the poorest representation of data obtained from both low and high speed video images, even though these are the techniques most commonly employed in fish locomotion studies. He showed most algorithms significantly underestimate maximum acceleration, and cautioned against using time average estimates to approximate instantaneous measures. He found spline algorithms, particularly the MSE spline, to be the most robust technique under the greatest array of conditions, such as sampling frequency and range of magnification. Access to shareware versions of the programs to conduct these analyses on a PowerMac can be found at Jeff's web site: jaw.fmnh.org.

REMEMBERING HERSHKOVITZ

From the September 1997 issue of *Neotropical Primates* -- a tribute by Russell A. Mittermeier:

When Phil died on February 15, 1997, it was a great loss for all of us working on Neotropical primates and it created a gap that is unlikely ever to be filled. He was a field mammologist of the old school, with tireless energy and an understanding of the creatures on which he worked that only comes from decades of hands-on work in nature and in the Museum. The many sophisticated biochemical techniques and the endless array of computer programs increasingly available today are extremely useful in systematics, but they can never replace the deep, almost instinctual understanding of the relationship between animals that comes from working intimately with them for so many years. Phil had this kind of knowledge, and it enabled him to sort through the nearly two centuries of mistakes and confusion in Neotropical primate taxonomy and create a framework upon which all of us today base our own work. He was able to take the marmosets and tamarins, for example, and turn their taxonomy from a chaotic mess into a clear and understandable system that greatly clarified the relationships among these animals. His classic work, *Living New World Monkeys (Platyrrhini, Vol. 1)*, is one of the truly great publications in the history of mammology, and many of us have built careers around updating and expanding upon it. Without the enormous amount of work done by Phil to provide this solid foundation, we would likely still be unclear as to what we were dealing with in terms of species and subspecies of the Callitrichidae and the other Neotropical genera on which he worked...

Despite his reputation for being ornery and combative and the fact that he was basically a loner (very few of his papers are co-authored), he was very responsive to anyone interested in his work. He would reply immediately to correspondence, and if you were fortunate enough to visit his office in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, he would pull out as many specimens as you might want to see and give you hours of detailed explanation on the taxonomy of whatever genus or species might be of interest. He was as charming and delightful as he was ornery, and I for one always left a meeting with him with that unusual, uplifting feeling that one gets on those very rare occasions when one has the chance to be in the presence of a truly great man ...

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

ALL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVITED!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1997 (PAYDAY!)

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

DINING ROOM E (AT THE FAR END OF MCDONALD'S)

Anyone interested in selling homemade items -- baked goods, candy, toys, dolls, holiday decorations, jewelry -- please call **Elaine Zeiger** (x338) to reserve table space.



Share your news with the *Natural News*!

We welcome announcements of "rites of passage" -- births, gallery openings, band dates, theater openings, races run and other significant personal events. However, please note that what can be printed is only what is known -- so don't be shy! (If submitting an item for a shy friend, please make sure that you at least have their permission to do so.)

Send the announcement of your significant event for publication to the *Natural News* in the President's Office, or via E-mail to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org by **Tuesday noon**.

Christian Fellowship

Wednesday, November 26, 1997

12 noon - 1:00 p.m. In Classroom I -- Ground Floor

Questions? Call **Sandra Blake** (x854)

Another Lost Cart

Be on the look-out for a lost Geology Department specimen cart. It has six drawers and is 78 cm. high, 76 cm. deep and 52 cm. wide. The cart should have a tag which says, "Room 3107, FMNH Vertebrate Paleontology." If found, please call **Steve** (x336).